

# Lake commissioner attends White House summit

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## Commissioner Troy discusses the event at [www.News-Herald.com](http://www.News-Herald.com)



Lake County Commissioner Daniel P. Troy was among about 100 county officials from across the country who participated in a recent five-hour White House summit highlighted by an appearance and remarks by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

The event was hosted by the National Association of Counties and was held so officials could discuss, at length, issues that are of critical concern for county governments and the communities they serve.

County officials were able to ask questions to members of Obama's administration, including Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen

Sebelius, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson.

The summit was divided into three sessions, which were:

■ Breaking the Cycle of Jails and Poverty: A County Perspective

■ Health Reform Implementation and Medicaid



**Troy**

### ■ Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities

Troy said during the session on infrastructure that he discussed that communities tend not to fix problems with existing infrastructure first, but then continue to spend money on new outer lying infrastructure.

"We need to get to a point where we have to start to say no on that," he said. "Where we say we're just not going to build new infrastructure when we have underutilized infrastructure that is aging and needs repairs on it."

Troy said it was an honor to be invited to the May 3 event at the White House to discuss federal issues affect-

ing counties and communities and to explain to federal officials the challenges that counties face in providing vital services in a difficult economic climate.

"Federal policies regarding transportation, housing and development, health and human services, environmental protection and homeland security are primarily carried out at the county government level," Troy said. "They only work if county government does its job."

The commissioner said he was happy that federal officials wanted to hear what county leaders had to say.

"I appreciate the fact the Obama administration understands that and that they felt that partnership so important that it merited this special summit meeting," Troy said.